

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1    1.     A media playback system comprising:  
2           a search module that signals a user-query to a first network site to receive a search  
3           result, and in response to receiving the search result, identifies a first link  
4           contained in the search result that is selectable to open media files; and  
5           a media player coupled to the search module to automatically play back streaming  
6           media contained in a first media file of the first link contained in the search  
7           result.
- 1    2.     The media play back system of claim 1, wherein the search module includes a  
2    parser to parse the search result for the first link.
- 1    3.     The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module searches a  
2    media directory comprising a plurality of addresses, each address locating a network site  
3    for accessing a media file, the search module retrieving from the media directory at least a  
4    first address for the first network site based on the user-query.
- 1    4.     The media playback system of claim 3, wherein the search module searches the  
2    media directory via an HTTP interface.
- 1    5.     The media playback system of claim 1, further comprising a user-interface to  
2    receive the user-query, and to signal the user-query to the search module.

1 6. The media playback system of claim 5, wherein the search module signals the  
2 user-query to the first network site including one or more search fields for determining the  
3 search result.

1 7. The media playback system of claim 6, wherein the search module signals the  
2 user-query to the first network site including one or more search fields, the one or more  
3 search fields being selected from the group of search fields consisting of an artist name, a  
4 media title, a genre of media, or a type of media file.

1 8. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module includes a web  
2 browser component, and the search module accesses a first web site in response to the  
3 user-query.

1 9. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module signals the  
2 user-query to the first network site to identify the first link contained in the search result  
3 for opening media files containing audio digital recordings.

1 10. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module signals the  
2 user-query to the first network site to identify the first link contained in the search result  
3 for opening media files containing video and/or audio digital recordings.

1 11. The media playback system of claim 1, wherein the search module signals the  
2 user-query to a search engine of the first network site in the form of a uniform resource  
3 locator.

1 12. A media playback system operated on a terminal coupled to a network, the media  
2 playback system comprising:

3 a search module that signals a user-query to a plurality of network sites to receive a  
4 plurality of search results, and in response to receiving the plurality of search  
5 results, identifies a plurality of links that are selectable to open media files; and  
6 a media player coupled to the search module to automatically access and load the  
7 media files of the plurality of links.

1 13. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module identifies a  
2 first link from a first network site, and a second link from a second network site, and  
3 wherein the media player automatically accesses and loads a first media file of the first  
4 link, and a second media file of the second link, so as to continuously and sequentially  
5 playback streaming media from the first link and the second link.

1 14. The media playback system of claim 13, wherein the first network site has a first  
2 domain address, and the second network site has a second domain address that is different  
3 than the first domain address.

1 15. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module formulates the  
2 search query into a network query directed to one or more of the network sites.

1 16. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module formulates the  
2 search query into a plurality of network queries, each of the plurality of network queries  
3 being directed on one of the plurality of network sites.

1 17. The media playback system of claim of claim 15, wherein the search module  
2 formulates each network query so as to include a uniform resource locator including  
3 metadata information specific to the corresponding network sites.

1 18. The media player of claim 17, wherein the search module formulates each network  
2 query into the uniform resource locator, including an address to the corresponding network  
3 site, and arguments to search for streaming media on the corresponding network site.

1 19. The media playback system of claim 12, wherein the search module signals the  
2 search results to a playlist module, the playlist module arranging the plurality of links from  
3 the search results into a designated order, each of the plurality of links providing a  
4 network address for a corresponding media file, the playlist module signaling the plurality  
5 of links to the media player in the designated order.

1 20. The media playback system of claim 12, further comprising a user-interface to  
2 receive the user-query.